



Department of State

TELEGRA

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSA-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 EUR-25 OMB-01 DRC-01 7134 W DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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R 281405Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2938

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3584

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS : PINS, IS

SUBJECT : FORMER JDL LEADER CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTED CONSPIRACY

1. FORMER JDL LEADER MEIR KAHANE WAS CONVICTED JUNE 27 IN JERUSALEM DISTRICT COURT OF ATTEMPTING TO CONSPIRE WITH INDIVIDUALS IN US TO COMMIT ACTS LIKELY TO DAMAGE US-ISRAELI RELATIONS. KAHANE WAS ACQUITTED OF A SECOND CHARGE OF CONSPIRING TO COMMIT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE. KAHANE WAS SENTENCED JUNE 28 TO TWO YEARS SUSPENDED IMPRISONMENT ON CONDITION THAT HE NOT ENGAGE IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

2. CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST KAHANE BY GOI GREW OUT OF LETTERS SENT BY HIM TO HIS FOLLOWERS IN US IN MAY 1973 ON EVE OF VISIT BY BREZHNEV TO US. LETTERS, ACCORDING TO ISRAELI PROSECUTION, INSTRUCTED JDL ADDRESSEES TO CARRY OUT ASSASSINATION, ABDUCTIONS AND BOMBINGS AGAINST SOVIET AND ARAB DIPLOMATS AND TO ATTACK US FIRMS DOING BUSINESS WITH USSR. LETTERS HAD BEEN INTERCEPTED BY ISRAELI SECURITY AND NEVER REACHED THEIR DESTINATIONS. DURING TRIAL, WHICH WAS HELD IN CAMERA AT REQUEST OF THE PRIME MINISTER, KAHANE ADMITTED SENDING LETTERS BUT JUSTIFIED HIS ACTION ON BASIS OF CONCERN FOR FATE OF SOVIET JEWRY AND A DESIRE TO FORCE USSR TO PERMIT THEM TO EMIGRATE.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT KAHANE HAS BEEN CONVICTED IN ISRAELI COURTS OF SERIOUS CHARGE. THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO

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ADDITIONAL SERIOUS OFFENSES FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN CHARGED BUT NEVER BROUGHT TO TRIAL: AN ATTEMPT IN SEPTEMBER 1972 TO SMUGGLE ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES FROM ISRAEL TO JDL ACTIVISTS ABROAD WHICH WERE TO BE USED TO CARRY OUT "COUNTERTERRORIST" ACTIVITIES AGAINST ARABS AND AN APRIL 1973 CHARGE FOR INCITING ARABS IN ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO HOSTILITY AGAINST ISRAELI JEWS. WHEN, IF EVER, KAHANE WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR THESE CHARGES IS UNKNOWN.

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